121 Glen Street

1759

Matthew Hart (1736-1813) & Elizabeth Hopkins (1740-1825. Mathew Hart owned a lead mine near his house. With Selah Hart on the committee they supplied stores of lead for the Revolutionary War.

Salt box

Located corner Sheldon and Glen Streets

1934 WPA Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut Survey at the Connecticut State Library Digital Collection. Slide #024

1759 Mathew Hart current owner: Isaac Porter Glen Road, faces west

Wood house, saltbox, central brick chimney, 2 stories and a half, 9 window front, double overhang, stone foundation, modern porch

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Connecticut State Library, State Archives
WPA Architectural Survey: wpa_archsurvey_berl024

1935 Susqui-Centennial Celebration of the Town of Berlin – Berlin Old Houses.

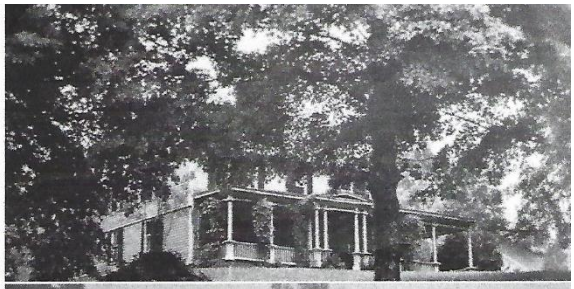
About 1759 Matthew Hart Current owner: Isaac Porter Glen Street

1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 047

1759 Matthew Hart current owner Edward Heffernan

2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

1759 current owner: Dean Taylor colonial



Genealogy
Mathew Hart (1736-1813) was the son of Matthew Hart & Sarah Hooker. He married Elizabeth Hopkins (1740-1825), the daughter of Joseph Hopkins & Elizabeth Galpin. They had children: Mathew, Seth, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Oliver. Matthew joined the Kensington Congregational Church in 1761. Mathew Hart owned a lead mine near his house. With Selah Hart on the committee they supplied stores of lead for the Revolutionary War.

Berlin Historical Society photos

The Lead Mine

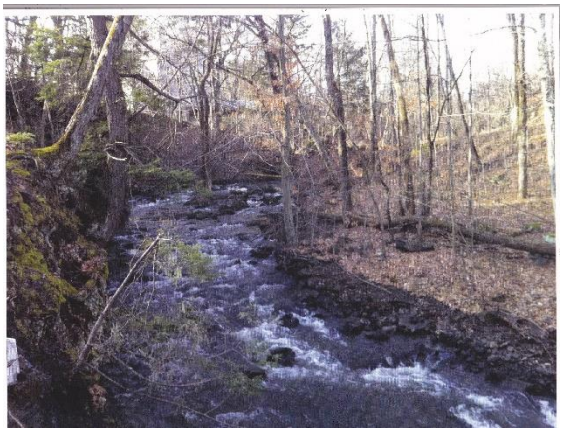
During the Revolutionary War, lead was an important metal.

Lead or galena, a sulfide, has been mined at a number of locations in Connecticut. The largest working mine was in nearby Middletown, on the east bank of the Connecticut River near River Road about a half-mile east of Silver Street. Another source of lead was in Kensington on the Mill River.

In 1775, General Selah Hart was appointed by the General Court as one of a committee to "provide stories of lead as they shall judge necessary for the use of the colony, to contract for and take lead ore that shall be raised out of the mine of Matthew Hart of Farmington, and to dig and raise ore in said mine if profitable and necessary for the use of the colony." [1]

In a report the Kensington mine was identified as "another one of those old lead-diggings which was explored during and prior to the revolutionary-war and where unsuccessful attempts to find a body of ore were also made about thirty years ago (1807)."[2]

Selah Hart's cousin, Matthew Hart owned the mine in Kensington. Matthew lived at 121 Glen Street. Today, it is a private home. Picture from 1934 WPA Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut Survey at the Connecticut State Library Digital Collection.



Photos by Jay Robbins

James Gates Percival, a Kensington native and the first state geologist, was very familiar with the Kensington mine. It was co-owned by his father Dr Percival and located about a half-mile from his childhood home. In a letter he wrote: "there are two distinct openings, probably along the vein line. There seemed to be ore, he wrote, I found it there, but it needs to be tested. He found that the ore is entirely similar to that of the Middletown mine, in strings parallel to the walls. It has always been found that the ore obtained in the old working was found to contain a portion of silver, the poorly grained ore is predominant. The mine is thin, like the Middletown mine. At some point the small veins contain galena starting at right angles from the vein in the overlaying shale. The rock being in the water I can not

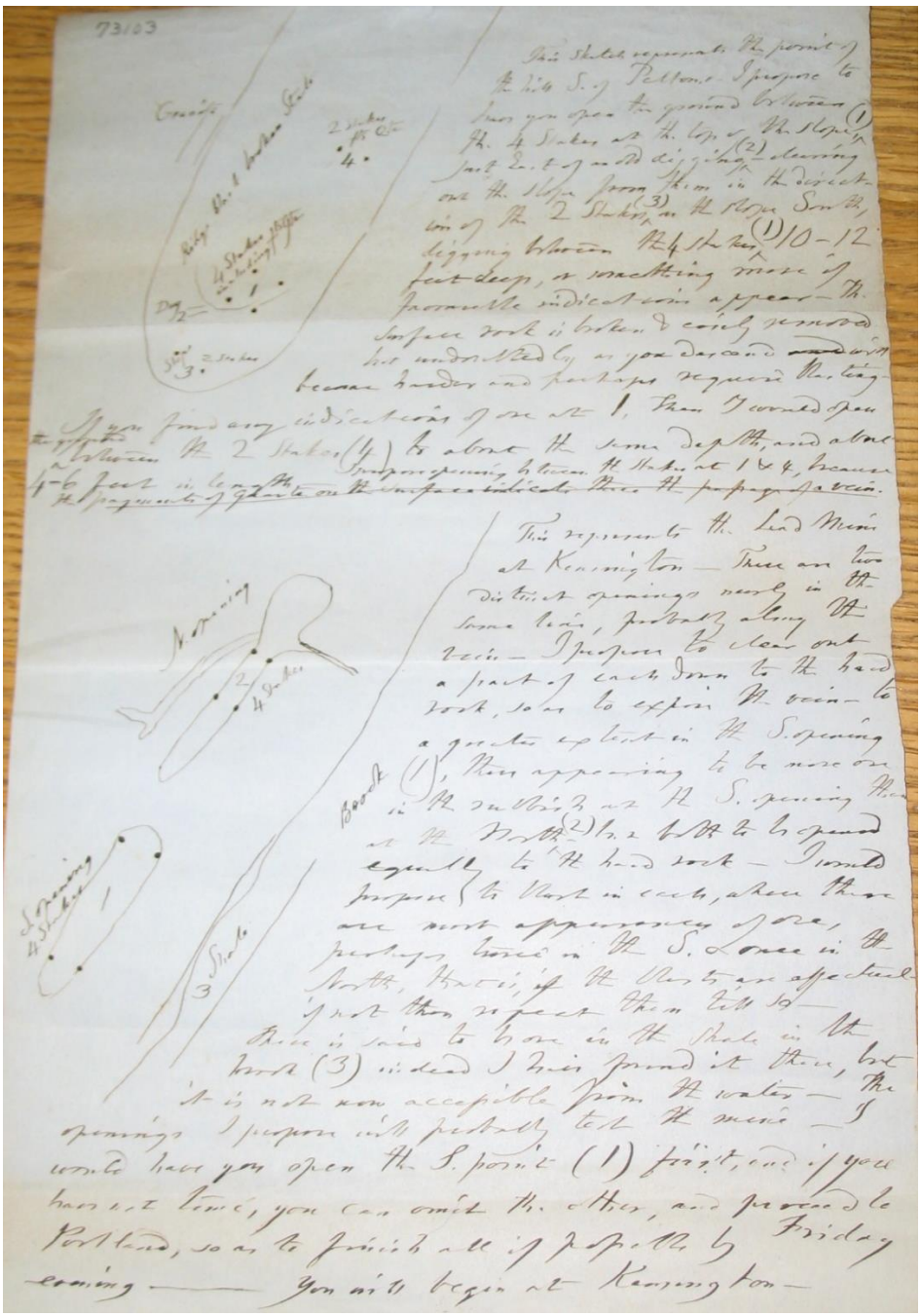
[1] Memorial History of Hartford County, Volume 2, 1886 by J. Hammond Trumbull, page 23

[2] Connecticut's minor metals and her minerals, part 2, by Charles Rufus Harte, 60th annual meeting of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers, 1944

speak more particularly. The blend in the main vein is subordinate and more generally occurs in connection with the coarser grained ore".[3]

Percival drew a sketch with suggestions of where to open the ground and test the vein.

The mine was on the east side of the stream.



[3] James Gates Percival letter found at the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, CT

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

#047

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Town No.: Site No.:
UTM
QUAD:
DISTRICT ☐ S ☐ NR IF NR, SPECIFY ☐ Actual ☐ Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic): Matthew Hart House
2. TOWN: CITY: Berlin VILLAGE: COUNTY: Hartford
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location): 121 Glen Street 14-2/65/1
4. OWNER(S): Heffernan, Edmund D. III " " Kensington ☐ Public ☒ Private
5. USE (Present): Residence (Historic): Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD ☒ Yes ☐ No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ☐ Yes ☒ No IF YES, EXPLAIN

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: 18th century vernacular DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 18th century
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
☒ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☐ Brick ☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding ☐ Fieldstone
☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone
☐ Aluminum Siding ☐ Concrete Type: ☒ Cut stone Type: Brownstone foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
☒ Wood frame ☐ Post and beam ☐ balloon
☐ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel
☐ Other (Specify)
10. ROOF (Type)
☒ Gable ☐ Flat ☐ Mansard ☐ Monitor ☐ sawtooth
☐ Gambrel ☐ Shed ☐ Hip ☐ Round ☐ Other (Specify)
(Material)
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Roll Asphalt ☐ Tin ☐ Slate ☐ Gable end to the street
☒ Asphalt shingle ☐ Built up ☐ Tile ☐ Other (Specify) ☒ Ridge parallel to the street
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 38' x 30' (main portion)
12. CONDITION (Structural): ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated (Exterior): ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location): ☒ On original site ☐ Moved WHEN? (Alterations): ☒ Yes ☐ No IF YES, EXPLAIN: Victorian porch, sash
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
☒ Barn ☐ Shed ☐ Garage ☐ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
☐ Carriage house ☐ Shop ☐ Garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
☐ Open land ☐ Wood-land ☒ Residential ☒ Scattered buildings visible from site
☐ Commercial ☐ Indus-trial ☐ Rural ☐ High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

On a large knoll in an area of mostly post-World War II housing.

#47

DESCRIPTION (continued)

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

The house has a five-bay facade with a central entry. The entry has a glass and panel door. Across the front is a full-width one-story flat-roofed porch which extends around the right to shelter a side entry. The porch has Tuscan columns on paneled bases, a molded rail, square balusters, a stickwork frieze, and a shallow projecting pedimented peak on triple columns centered over the entry. Windows are paired toward the corners of the facade, are fitted with large 2-over-2 sash and have plain board surrounds. Second floor windows are fitted into the bed molding of the cornice. The molded cornice shows a partial return at the gable ends. Hewn overhangs appear at the first floor and on the gable ends of the side elevations (obscured by the porch on the facade). The house has an integral leanto and a small cross-gable rear extension; the roof of the leanto has a large shed-roofed dormer.

SIGNIFICANCE

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This dwelling is significant as a large, well-preserved 18th century central chimney house. Although the Victorian porch dominates the front of the house, the five-bay facade with paired windows is still clearly visible. The earliest central chimney houses often have three-bay facades; the introduction of paired windows in the two front rooms admitted more light and air. The hewn overhangs, integral leanto, the position of the second-floor windows, and the large central chimney itself are all typical 18th century features. The Victorian alterations are well-conceived and do not detract from the architectural value of the house.

This house is said to have been bult by Matthew Hart about 1759.

SOURCES

1855 Atlas
1869 Atlas
Tercentenary List

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER: HRC

DATE: 11

VIEW: SE

NEGATIVE ON FILE: E19

COMPILED BY

NAME: Historic Resource Consultants

DA: 12

ORGANIZATION: The Colt Armory

ADDRESS: 55 Van Dyke Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- [X] None known
- [ ] Highways
- [ ] Vandalism
- [ ] Renewal
- [ ] Private
- [ ] Deterioratio

Town of Berlin, CT

Property Listing Report

Map Block Lot	14-2-65-1	Account	1062640

Valuation Summary

(Assessed value = 70% of Appraised Value)

Item	Appraised	Assessed
Buildings	162300	113600
Extras	0	0
Improvements	162300	113600
Outbuildings	0	0
Land	115800	81100
Total	278100	194700

Sub Areas

Subarea Type	Gross Area (sq ft)	Living Area (sq ft)
First Floor	1535	1535
Patio, Concrete	460	0
Porch, Open, Finished	408	0
Attic, Unfinished	814	0
Upper Story, Finished	814	814
Basement	1073	0
Crawl Space	462	0
Three Quarter Story,80%	259	207

Outbuilding and Extra Features

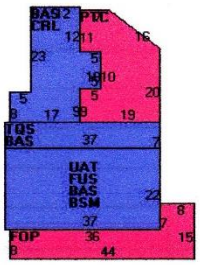
Type	Description

Sales History

Owner of Record	Book/ Page	Sale Date	Sale Price
TAYLOR DEAN H	261/ 385	12/31/1986	0

Street Index	7
Acreage	0.73
Utilities	All Public
Lot Setting/Desc	Level
Additional Info	

Sketch



Primary Construction Details

Year Built	1759	Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms	Exterior Walls	Clapboard
Stories	2	Full Bathrooms	1	Exterior Walls 2	
Building Style	Colonial	Half Bathrooms	1	Interior Walls	Drywall
Building Use	Residential	Extra Fixtures		Interior Walls 2	
Building Condition	G	Bath Style	Average	Heating Type	Hot Water
Interior Floors 1	Carpet	Kitchen Style	Average	Heating Fuel	Oil/Gas
Interior Floors 2		Roof Style	Salt Box	Fin Basement Area	
Whirlpool Tub		Roof Cover	Asph/F Gls/Cmp	Fin BSMT Quality	
Total Rooms	9	Fireplaces	4	Fin BSMT Area 2	
Basement Garages		AC TYPE	None	Fin BSMT Quality 2	